

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING
for
MA in FILM STUDIES

SCCE is visualised as a location that implements a new vision of art pedagogy and practice in the country. The School will provide a nurturing ground for the development of new and different art making practices and theoretical insights across the areas of Visual Art, Literary Art, Performance Art and Cinematic Art.

It is internationally recognised that India is one of the largest producers of a variety of narrative films in more than one location in the country. Indian mainstream cinema is also known for its specific narrative features and its central place in the social life of the country, particularly through its song and dance sequences and melodramatic appeal. In contradistinction to the mainstream cinema a significant group of alternative film makers too have grasped the attention of the world beginning with the inimitable figure of Satyajit Ray. In spite of this extra-ordinary creative output the specific tasks of studying film making and viewing practices as well as the task of critical and analytical approaches to film texts have not been sufficiently addressed by Indian academia. Even though scholarly attention was beginning to be drawn to cinema since the early eighties, the MA Film Studies Programme in the SCCE is among the very few of its kind in the country.

It tries to address the task of studying cinema in India in all its varieties in a global comparativist mode without subscribing to any pre-set hierarchy of aesthetic merit and artistic excellence. It seeks to bridge the gap between a philosophical understanding of film as an art form and the cultural studies understanding of its role as mass media drawing on the rich theoretical legacies of Benjamin, Kracauer and Deleuze among others. Particular attention is paid to the multi-sited film production in India not allowing the undue attention paid to Bollywood to eclipse the pluralisation of film cultures in India. The Programme is equally interested in fostering historical, anthropological and textual analysis of cinema paying close attention to its embedded nature in the social and political history of the country.

It is important to understand that this program is NOT designed to help those interested in film making in the sense that it is not merely a theoretical supplement to film practice. Students interested in a deeply theoretical understanding of the social function of cinematic art and its location in contemporary history will benefit most from this programme. Students may refer to the links provided at the end of this note for an understanding of the nature of texts studied.

Structure:

The Programme is of two years duration with four semesters. A semester is 16 weeks long. A course meeting for four credit hours a week for the duration of a semester enables students to earn four credits. Students should register for a

minimum of 16 credits each term and need to earn 64 credits to complete the programme successfully. They may register for more credits on payment of extra fees.

All students of SCCE in the four different MA programmes offered need to take three common Foundational Courses, one each in the first three semesters, for 12 credits in all. In the spirit of fostering interdisciplinary learning they are encouraged to take four Elective Courses offered by the School or any other School in the University, one each in all the four semesters, for 16 credits in total. They need to take seven compulsory Core Courses pertaining to their respective discipline for 28 credits in total. Their MA Dissertation work in the final semester will earn them eight credits. The total of 64 credits earned thus qualifies a student for the MA degree.

Careers

The Film Studies Programme is designed to enable student to critically engage with the art of film narrative. Based on the inclination of the individual student it may launch students in their engagement with cinema and other visual narrative forms in diverse avenues. Though an MA in Film Studies is not directly related to employment, a student may demonstrate his/her awareness of the intricacies of the art to secure placement in the entertainment industry, the television industry, various sites of film making, work as a film journalist or critic in the press and other media. A student may also proceed to be a researcher and/or an academic in related fields. It should be borne in mind that the program is not practice oriented when thinking of career.

Medium of instruction: English

Eligibility: The minimum eligibility criterion is a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with pass marks (or an equivalent grade) from a recognised University. Candidates must have exposure to the historical and formal elements of cinematic art, interest in the critical analysis of cinema and awareness of the varieties of cinema in India and its role in the socio-political life of the country.

Fees:

Tuition Fees: Rs. 23200 per semester (Rs. 1450 per credit)
Extramural Interface Cost: Rs. 5000 per year + Caution Deposit: Rs. 5000 (One-time, Refundable) Student Welfare Fund: Rs. 500 per semester.

If a student opts for extra credits an additional fee of Rs.1450 per credit has to be paid.

*Partial/full fee waiver and scholarships are available. Full waiver of tuition fees will be extended to students belonging to SC, ST and PwD categories.

Instructions for Entrance Examination:

The entrance exam will consist of a section with multiple choice questions testing familiarity with Indian and international films (15 marks); a section in which students will view some film clippings and write a comment on them (20 marks); two short essays on issues related to cinema (20 marks); a long essay on an issue related to Indian cinema.

Tips for preparation:

Familiarity with Indian and international films primarily helps to answer questions. Students may consult books like How to Read a Film: Movies, Media and Beyond by James Monaco and Encyclopedia of Indian Cinema by Ashish Rajadhyaksha and Paul Willemen available at <https://indiancine.ma/documents/DSP/3>

In order to become familiar with academic writing on cinema students may consult the texts available in the following links. Please note these texts are not to be thought of as syllabus for the entrance exam. They are samples of academic writing. Students are free to use these texts in their answers if they think they prove relevant to the essay topics given but it is not necessary to use them as source books. Answers based on personal reasoning and experience of cinema will be fully appreciated.

http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/640193/mod_resource/content/2/bazin-andre-what-is-cinema-volume-1-kg.pdf

<https://fadingtheaesthetic.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/bazin-andre-what-is-cinema-volume-2-kg.pdf>

http://jmionline.org/article/film_history_as_cultural_history